CHAIN REACTIONS

Sometimes a single action can unleash a chain reaction of devastating consequences. Think of the driver waiting at a stoplight, minding her own business, when suddenly she is struck from the rear by another car whose driver wasn't paying attention. That one action unleashes a chain reaction of consequences. The ambulance is called, work and school are missed, bills pile up, family events are suddenly transformed as the injured strives to recover.

In Romans 5, Paul explores the dreadful consequences that resulted when Adam sinned. Through Adam’s failure, sin and death came into the world (Romans 5:12). Adam’s sin brought catastrophic consequences for all humanity — death, judgment, and condemnation for all people (Romans 5:15, 16, 18). His disobedience transformed all humanity from saints to sinners, and death became the tyrannical ruling power on earth (Romans 5:17).

In the same way that a single sinful action can unleash a chain reaction of evil, a single right action can trigger a chain reaction of good. In place of humanity’s disobedience, Jesus obeyed perfectly. His obedience unto death unleashed a chain reaction of righteousness (Romans 5:19). In place of death and condemnation, Jesus’ actions unleashed justification and life (Romans 5:18).

The world Adam bequeathed to his children is caught up in a never-ending chain reaction of sin, pain, suffering, loss, and death. Jesus triumphed over these by His faithfulness. All who put their faith in Him are a part of a new legacy, a new chain reaction of justification, righteousness, and life. Which will you embrace?
Write out Romans 5 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Romans 5:6–11. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 5. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How has God used the trials of life to shape your character?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom05-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How does the idea of God seeming to be unfair make Him the fairest of all?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom05-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

2 Corinthians 5:17–21
Hebrews 7:25
1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, 45
Isaiah 53:11

What other verses come to mind in thinking about living in grace?

Review your memorized verse from Romans 5.
Meditate on Romans 5 again and look for where Jesus is.

Who are those that are “ungodly,” “weak,” and your “enemies,” to whom you can manifest love by the power of God living in you?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/rom05-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What practical applications can you make in regard to righteousness, consequences, and hope?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/rom05-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Have you ever found yourself in a chain reaction of bad consequences? How did you get out?

Have you ever found yourself in a virtuous cycle of good consequences? Why is this good? Bad?

When and how has the Holy Spirit brought you comfort during a difficult season of life?

Why is it fair that the whole world went wrong because of Adam’s sin?

Why is it fair that the whole world can be righteous because of Christ’s righteousness?

When you feel condemned and judged, how can Paul’s teaching about peace with God through justification by faith help you?

How does the Christian hope bring comfort during trials?

How can hope, righteousness, and peace be tangible in your life?